



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION 2
290 BROADWAY
NEW YORK, NY 10007-1866

MAR 18 2005

Peter Idema, III
Supervisor
Town of East Fishkill
330 Route 376
Hopewell Junction, New York 12533

Dear Supervisor Idema:

We have reviewed the information submitted for the Town of East Fishkill's Little Switzerland Water Storage Tank Replacement Project, pursuant to the Environmental Protection Agency's regulations for implementing the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), 40 CFR Part 6, and have determined that the project qualifies for a categorical exclusion (CATEX) from substantive environmental review requirements. The project, which involves replacing an inadequate existing water storage tank and pump house control equipment, is being partially funded through a federal Special Appropriation Act grant (Grant No. XP98265101).

Based on our review of the supporting documentation, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) approves the request for the CATEX. Please be reminded that EPA may revoke this CATEX if any of the following conditions occur:

- changes in the proposed action render it ineligible for exclusion;
- new evidence indicates that serious local or environmental issues exist; or
- federal, state, or local laws would be violated.

Should you have any questions regarding this decision, please address them to John Filippelli, Chief, Strategic Planning and Multi-Media Programs Branch, at the above address.

Sincerely,

Kathleen C. Callahan
Acting Regional Administrator

Enclosure

cc: Michael J. Morris, P.E. (w/encl.)

ENCLOSURE

Little Switzerland Water District Town of East Fishkill Dutchess County, New York Special Appropriation Grant Project

Background

The Little Switzerland Water District serves approximately 135 customers in the Town of East Fishkill, New York. Its existing ground-level storage tank has inadequate storage capacity and has experienced leaks over time. Because the tank's water surface is only eight feet above ground level, there have been complaints from nearby residences of low water pressure. In addition, the control panel and well pump starters located in the existing pump house are at or near the end of their anticipated service lives.

Proposed Action

The project involves construction of a replacement ground-level, glass-lined, steel water storage tank with sufficient storage capacity and water level to provide adequate water pressure to all of the system's customers and adequate reserve water for fire protection needs. The plan is to locate the new storage tank immediately adjacent to the existing storage tank.

Alternatives Considered

No Action Alternative - "No action" was rejected because it does not allow the Little Switzerland Water District to efficiently provide high quality drinking water to its customers on a continuing basis, nor will there be adequate reserve capacity for fire protection.

Eligibility for Granting a Categorical Exclusion

The project meets the general Categorical Exclusion (CATEX) eligibility criteria found in 40 CFR 6.107(d)(1). The regulations allow CATEXs for activities involving "actions which are solely directed toward rehabilitation of existing facilities, functional replacement of equipment, or construction of new ancillary facilities adjacent or appurtenant to existing facilities."

Additionally, the available information on the proposed action indicates that the specific criteria for not granting a CATEX, found in 40 CFR 6.505(c)(1), are not present. Specifically, the project will not result in a new or relocated discharge to surface or ground waters; will not increase the amount of pollutants discharged to receiving waters; nor will it provide capacity to serve a population significantly greater than the existing population. Furthermore, there will be no significant adverse effects on cultural resources, endangered or threatened species, environmentally sensitive areas, or other environmentally important natural resource areas.

Conclusion

The proposed action conforms to the category of actions eligible for exclusion under 40 CFR 6.107(d)(1). Accordingly, EPA approves this CATEX from detailed environmental review pursuant to our procedures for implementing the National Environmental Policy Act.